

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Weekly Bulletin

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SAN FRANCISCO

State Office Building, McAllister and
Larkin Streets Underhill 8700

SACRAMENTO

State Office Building, 10th and L Streets
Capital 2800

LOS ANGELES

State Office Building, 217 West First
Street Madison 1271

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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Control of Injurious Rodents in California

The College of Agriculture of the University of California has issued a publication entitled "Control of Injurious Rodents in California," by Tracy I. Storer, Professor of Zoology and Zoologist in the College Experiment Station at Davis. In this work, Professor Storer describes proper measures to use in the control of a number of rodents that have a distinct bearing upon the public health. Among such are ground squirrels, the introduced Norway, black and roof rats, Jack rabbits and cottontail rabbits. He states that gross estimates of more than \$20,000,000 annually have been made on the financial loss inflicted by rodents in California. "Efforts at suppressing injurious rodents date from the earliest days of farming in California; attempts at ground squirrel destruction were made by the Mission fathers. Governmental aid early took the form of bounties paid by counties for squirrels and gophers. The introduction and spread of bubonic plague among ground squirrels in the coastal region of California during early years of the twentieth century stimulated Federal and State organizations to reduce the numbers of these animals."

He discusses methods of control of these rodents and provides valuable reference material for individuals who are engaged in activities pertaining to rodent extermination. The important information relative to the natural history and habits of these

rodents constitutes a valuable index toward the application of control methods. Formulas for preparing poison baits for rodents are also provided. The circular is numbered 79 in the series of Agricultural Extension Service circulars issued by the College of Agriculture of the University of California at Berkeley.

OAKLAND TAKES NEGRO HEALTH SURVEY

Under the auspices of the Oakland City Health Department, Dr. A. Hieronymus, City Health Officer, is making a survey of public health conditions among the negro people of Oakland. This survey was made at the request of negro organizations and is conducted with the full cooperation of all such organizations in the city. A group of eight young colored women, highly educated, is working under the direction of the supervising nurse of the Oakland City Health Department, Miss Rachel Miller. The survey covers the western part of the city, which includes a population of approximately 10,000 negroes. The survey provides information relative to housing and sanitation, health and personal hygiene. All of this work is being accomplished under the provision of C. W. A. funds. Upon its completion, the City Health Department will have most valuable information relative to the actual health conditions that exist among negro residents of Oakland.

ALAMEDA MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT REPORTS

The Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District, of which Harold F. Gray is engineer, has issued its report for the calendar year 1933. This consists of twenty-four mimeographed pages and provides detailed information relative to the operations, costs and methods used in the program of the district.

Alameda County has two distinct mosquito problems. The greatest is that related to the salt marsh mosquito. There are nearly 13,000 acres of salt marshes within the county. The prevention of mosquito breeding in these places constitutes an engineering problem in drainage, including the maintenance of proper drainage systems. The second problem, related to fresh water mosquitoes is a matter of minute detail. There are thousands of comparatively small breeding places scattered throughout the county. Public utility street vaults, sewer catch basins, creek beds, dairy drains, cesspools, road gutters, fish ponds, cemetery urns, tin cans, rain barrels, tree holes, wet basements, and an infinite variety of places which contain water offer excellent breeding places for mosquitoes and must be abated through the use of a wide variety of measures. The engineer of the district states: "The uninformed person often believes mosquito abatement to be merely a matter of spilling oil here and there. Actually, it is an extensive, intricate and difficult work." The total expenditures of the district in 1932 and 1933 were \$31,661, as compared with \$53,121 in the previous fiscal year, a 40 per cent decrease which is reflected in the reduction of work done in 1933. Concerning the results achieved, the report reads as follows:

"Three years of intensive work are now showing definite, valuable results to the people of this county. Not only has the public health and comfort been promoted, but definite economic values have resulted. No longer do hordes of stinging insects depreciate the value of extensive areas otherwise suitable for homes. The dairy industry has received distinct benefits in increased milk and butter production. Outdoor recreation has been made more enjoyable. Outdoor labor, including farm work, has been made more efficient and productive. The district has returned to the people values many fold greater than their moderate cost, and there is distinct evidence that public understanding of these facts, and public interest in and appreciation of the work, is greater than at any time in the past.

These results have been obtained in the face of decreased expenditures; in fact, the decrease now has been carried to the point of danger that the gains we have made can not be maintained on the present basis. Necessary maintenance work has been too severely curtailed for continuously successful results, and activities against fresh water mosquito breeding must be somewhat increased in the future."

"The county nurse who works well and thinks intelligently is sure to do much more than affect the limited area in which her work lies, for she is blazing a trail that will in time become a broad highway."—Gardner.

TRAINING COURSE FOR HEALTH OFFICERS ANNOUNCED

The University of California in its Intersession and Summer Session of 1934 will offer twelve weeks of intensive training for health officers. The session opens May 14th and closes August 3d. The course is open to any person with the degree of doctor of medicine, but because of the nature of the work the class will be limited in number.

The first six weeks of the course will be conducted in Berkeley under the general direction of Dr. F. L. Kelly, and will consist of class instruction, group discussions and field demonstrations. The next four weeks will be spent in the San Joaquin County Health Unit. During this period each student will receive practical field experience under the supervision of Dr. John Sippy. In the last two weeks each student will be required to make a survey of the health work in a community near enough to Berkeley so that frequent conferences can be held with the faculty members.

The course will not carry university credit but a certificate of attendance will be issued to those completing it in a satisfactory manner. The regular fees of the Intersession and Summer Session of \$35 for each session will be charged. Room and board for the six weeks session in Berkeley can be obtained from \$40 up. No laboratory fees will be charged.

Applications for admission should be sent to the Chairman, Department of Hygiene, University of California, Berkeley, and should be accompanied by a statement of professional training and of experience. Those wishing to attend should make application as early as possible.

The subjects covered will be Public Health Administration, Vital Statistics, Epidemiology, Communicable Disease, Child Hygiene, Parasitology and the integration of Public Health Nursing, the Public Health Laboratory and Sanitary Engineering with the public health program.

INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

- Dr. H. C. Bush, Director of Arroyo Sanatorium.
- Dr. J. N. Force, Professor of Epidemiology.
- Dr. J. C. Geiger, Director of Public Health, City and County of San Francisco.
- C. G. Gillespie, Chief of the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering, State Department of Public Health.
- H. F. Gray, Director of the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District.
- W. B. Herms, Professor of Parasitology.
- C. G. Hyde, Professor of Sanitary Engineering.
- Dr. W. H. Kellogg, Associate Clinical Professor of Preventive Medicine. Chief of the Bureau of Laboratories, State Department of Public Health.
- Dr. F. L. Kelly, Assistant Professor of Public Health Administration. Health Officer, City of Berkeley.
- Eschscholtzia L. Lucia, Assistant Professor of Biometry.
- Dr. K. F. Meyer, Professor of Bacteriology and Director of the Hooper Foundation.

Dr. Howard Morrow, Clinical Professor of Dermatology. President State Board of Public Health.

Dr. E. L. Munson, Lecturer in Preventive Medicine and Public Health.

Dr. R. L. Porter, Dean of the Medical School and Professor of Medicine.

Dr. W. P. Shepard, Assistant Secretary, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

Dr. J. Sippy, Director of the San Joaquin County Health Unit.

Dr. Ellen S. Stadtmuller, Chief of the Bureau of Child Hygiene, State Department of Public Health.

Miss Ida M. Stevens, Supervising Morbidity Statistician, State Department of Public Health.

Dr. H. R. Stolz, Director of the Institute of Child Welfare, and Director of Health and Physical Education, Oakland Public Schools.

STATES BAN PARRAKEET SHIPMENTS

The States of Connecticut, Minnesota, Oregon and the Territory of Hawaii have prohibited the importation of parrakeets because cases of psittacosis have occurred in individuals who have purchased imported birds. The State of Connecticut has gone farther and prohibits the buying, selling or transport within the State of birds belonging to that branch of the psittacine family known as parrakeets, or love birds.

Following is a copy of the executive order issued to health officers of Connecticut relative to this subject:

"The public health council, at its meeting on Thursday, December 28th, voted to add the following regulation to the Sanitary Code. This regulation will be regulation 49 and reads as follows:

No person, firm or corporation shall buy, sell or transport within the State of Connecticut birds belonging to that branch of the psittacine family known as parrakeets or love birds.

The above regulation was passed because of the increase of psittacosis occurring in persons residing in Connecticut, who purchased these infected birds and took them to their homes. The fatality rate of this disease is high and because of the ease of transmission and its virulence, psittacosis is recognized as one of the most dangerous of diseases. Regulations up to the present time have not prevented the spread of this disease from birds that have come to Connecticut.

Will you kindly inform the managers or owners that sell birds in your town or city so they will be warned about this regulation which is to take effect January 15, 1934. It has been found that these birds are sometimes sold not only in regular bird stores but in some department stores and others.

Sincerely yours,

STANLEY H. OSBORN,
Commissioner."

"Control of disease depends upon knowing that it exists."

NORTHERN PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS MEET

The Northern California Public Health Association held a dinner meeting in San Francisco Saturday, January 20, 1934. Edwin A. Cottrell, Professor of Political Science at Stanford University, spoke upon the subject "Health and Welfare in County Charters." He presented many new points of view and indicated that there must be many changes in the form of public health administration in order that this new development in government may be applied successfully. Health officers may profit through familiarizing themselves with the new trends that are in process of development through the amalgamation of public health and public welfare in county charters. Professor Cottrell has been active in drafting some of the new county charters that have gone into operation in California. There was a large attendance at the meeting, over which Dr. Herbert F. True, President of the association and city health officer of Sacramento, presided.

RABID DOG BITES TWENTY CHILDREN

The following report of a rabid dog was published in the Los Angeles *Examiner* of January 16, 1934:

"Owners of a yellow mongrel puppy which bit twenty children of the Edison High School at Huntington Park last Friday were sought by the county health department yesterday when it was definitely determined that the animal was rabid.

Clinical tests showed that the puppy, about 5 months old, was infected with rabies and all of the school children victims were ordered to begin Pasteur treatments at the Huntington Park Health Center under Dr. George E. Malkin. Owners of the dog were sought to see if the pup had bitten them or any neighbors before his rampage at the school."

There are men and classes of men that stand above the common herd; the soldier, the sailor, and the shepherd not infrequently; the artist rarely; rarelier still, the clergyman; the physician almost as a rule. He is the flower (such as it is) of our civilization; and when that stage of man is done with, and only remembered to be marveled at in history, he will be thought to have shared as little as any in the defects of the period, and most notably exhibited in the virtues of the race. Generosity he has, such as is possibly to those who practice an art, never to those who drive a trade; discretion, tested by a hundred secrets; tact, tried in a thousand embarrassments; and what are more important, Herculean cheerfulness and courage. So it is that he brings air and cheer into the sickroom, and often enough, though not so often as he wishes, brings healing.—Robert Louis Stevenson.

MORBIDITY REPORTS*

The reports of communicable diseases which appear in the following section of the Weekly Bulletin represent reports of cases received during the preceding week and are based upon reports received between Friday afternoon and the following Tuesday afternoon, when the bulletin copy is prepared. All reports received between Wednesday morning and Friday morning are recorded at once, but they are not included in the bulletin report.

Health officers are urged to mail their reports not later than Saturday of each week, in order that the reports of communicable diseases, as published in the bulletin, can be as full and complete as possible. It is also important that reports be mailed not later than Saturday in order that the weekly telegraphic report of communicable diseases in California, which is sent to the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service at Washington on Tuesday of each week, may represent the true incidence of reportable diseases within the State.

Diphtheria

32 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Los Angeles County 4, Los Angeles 15, San Gabriel 1, South Gate 1, Merced 1, Salinas 1, Auburn 1, San Francisco 2, San Joaquin County 1, Palo Alto 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Marysville 2.

Chickenpox

605 cases of chickenpox have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Alameda County 14, Berkeley 15, Oakland 28, Contra Costa County 14, Los Angeles County 47, Glendale 13, Huntington Park 10, Long Beach 17, Los Angeles 84, Monrovia 17, Pasadena 14, South Pasadena 18, Merced County 13, Orange County 17, Riverside 12, Sacramento 11, San Francisco 42, San Joaquin County 21, Stockton 11, San Jose 15, Ventura County 20.

Measles

763 cases of measles have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Alameda County 15, Alameda 49, Berkeley 13, Hayward 15, Oakland 132, Los Angeles 17, Chula Vista 29, San Diego 417.

Scarlet Fever

292 cases of scarlet fever have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as fol-

lows: Fresno County 18, Los Angeles County 33, Los Angeles 87, Redlands 16, San Francisco 18.

Whooping Cough

377 cases of whooping cough have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Oakland 43, Martinez 13, Kern County 14, Lake County 26, Los Angeles County 44, Los Angeles 53, Riverside 13, San Francisco 25, Stockton 14.

Smallpox

11 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 3, Glendale 4, Ventura County 1, Ventura 3.

Typhoid Fever

7 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 2, Santa Monica 1, Trinity County 1.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

3 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 2, San Gabriel 1.

Poliomyelitis

4 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 1, Plumas County 1.

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

2 cases of epidemic encephalitis from Sacramento have been reported.

Food Poisoning

3 cases of food poisoning have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 2, Pacific Grove 1.

Undulant Fever

5 cases of undulant fever have been reported, as follows: Eureka 1, Los Angeles County 2, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 1.

“Public health work has paid its way, being in fact one of the greatest investment services of our people.”

* From reports received on January 29th and 30th for week ending January 27th.